



**DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors**

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## **Aglands Foundation announces results of farmland preservation Public Round 14**

On May 13, 2009, the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation met to finalize the selections for Round 14. Fifty out of 131 farms that applied were selected. This round will permanently preserve 3,868 acres of prime, Delaware farmland.

Funding for these permanent easements was provided by the state and federal governments. Michael McGrath, Delaware Department of Agriculture Chief of Planning, said, "Delaware's Farmland Preservation Program continues our national leadership in preservation with these selections. Now with a total of 554 farms permanently preserved and over 94,681 acres we lead in the proportion of our state permanently preserved for farming. Delaware's citizens are assured of a future food and fiber supply, beautiful vistas, and important wildlife habitat."

Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, said, "As someone who has worked in agriculture for more than thirty-five years, I want to thank these owners, and all who have previously preserved their land, for their commitment to farmland preservation and our rich agricultural heritage. This year's average 72% discount by owners is a real testimony to their commitment to preservation."

"I would also want to thank the Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation for their on-going dedication and commitment," Kee continued. "Preserving farmland sustains and grows our agricultural industry. Preserving our agricultural industry bolsters Delaware's economy at a critical time. Delaware agriculture is a more than a billion dollar industry annually, with billions more in ripple effects throughout our economy. In recent years preserved farmland has been a major factor in attracting new, agriculturally related businesses to Delaware. These businesses provide jobs at a time when other industries are struggling. As we often say, 'Farmland preservation doesn't cost – it pays!'"

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